



## This Month's Program:

### Christmas Dinner

If you haven't confirmed you are coming to the Christmas dinner please let Ralph Muller know ASAP.

(B Y DEC. 7<sup>th</sup>)

**Ralph Muller**

**801-581-0991**

[mullerralph@gmail.com](mailto:mullerralph@gmail.com)

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## Presidents Message

Hello Everyone,

December....we've made to the end of another year. Time sure flies when you're having fun!

Speaking of time flying by & having fun, that is what it seems like to me as I reflect over the past two years that I have been UNS president. Thank you for supporting me & especially for supporting the other members of our club's leadership. I appreciate it very much! I would also like to extend my sincere thanks for all

of the participation in club meetings, coin shows & other club related events where much time & effort has been contributed. Thanks so very much to everyone!

The incoming leadership has my wholehearted support...they will need yours as well. Let's keep making our UNS club better & better by continuing the tradition of helping at every turn...especially as we look for ways to grow our club.

For December, we'll hold our annual Christmas dinner & prize giveaway. I hope to see each of your there as we wrap up other great year! See you December 14th!

*"Too many of us, when we accomplish what we set out to do, exclaim, "See what I have done!" instead of saying, "See where I have been led." Henry Ford*

Tom Jensen

## December Meeting Details.

**Meetings – Second Tuesday of each month ( December 14<sup>th</sup>)**

**Time - 6:30 P.M. Social / 7:00 P.M. Dinner**

**Location – Columbus Community Center; 2531 South 400 East, SLC**

**Greetings – Tom Jensen**

**Mini Exhibit – None**

**News & Views – None**

**Coin Quiz – None**

**Refreshments- UNS**

## UNS Schedule for 2010/11

Dec.-Christmas Dinner

Jan. 2011 – TBA

Feb. 2011 – TBA

Mar. 2011 – TBA

Apr. 2011 – TBA

May 2011 - TBA

## January 2011 UNS Meeting Announcement

Don't forget, as a preliminary notice, we will be having our **January 2011** meeting at the new "All About Coins" store courtesy of Bob Campbell. This is a one-time location change, only for January. Further details will be in the January MintMaster.

## Interesting Coin of the Month

### *1944 "Henning Nickel"*



This is a counterfeit nickel which supposedly was coined by Francis Henning to the extent of over 200,000 pieces. It isn't talked about today as it once was, but when it appeared in the late 40's in New Jersey and New York, it was quite a conversation item. As you will notice, it is a mimic of a 1944 nickel from Philadelphia, but the counterfeiter forgot one significant item. Nickels minted from 1942-45 (there are two types in 1942) all carried a much larger mintmark above the dome of Monticello including a "P" for the Philadelphia mint but this nickel has no mintmark! Also, Mr. Henning's nickels were made mostly of copper similar to the pre-war composition and not 35% silver. Before his capture by the Secret Service it is estimated that close to 100,000 of his nickels reached circulation, only 10,000 were confiscated and just before his capture Mr. Henning supposedly dumped almost 100,000 of them into a nearby river. Occasionally one of the so-called 'Henning Nickels' still appears for sale. Some other dates struck by Henning are 1939, 1946, 1947 and 1953.

## UNS Program for December's Meeting

We will be having our gourmet Christmas dinner this month. There will be a multitude of prizes including 5 gold coins. The social begins at 6:30 PM with dinner to follow at 7. Please come early to visit and socialize. We have an exciting program in store, as always, and great food.

## Prizes of the Month

- Prizes galore at our Christmas Dinner.
- 5 Gold coins to be given to attendees
- Great prizes possible for all.
- Make your plans to attend now.

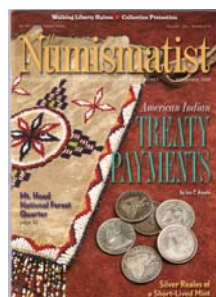
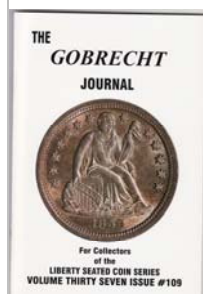
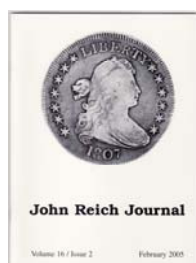
### ----- IMPORTANT NOTICE -----

**January Planning Meeting to be held January 4<sup>th</sup> 2011 at 7:00 PM.**

**Location – Fire Station at 900W 3300S**

**All outgoing and incoming officers and board members are invited to attend.**

**We will be planning our calendar for 2011 and turnover of materials to new officers.**



## Book Review

Something a little different this month. You are probably very familiar with 'Coin World,' 'Numismatic News,' and 'Coins' magazine, but there are many fine publications put out by specialty and other clubs. Probably the most notable is the Numismatist published by the ANA but there are many others, shown at left are 'Longacre's Ledger' which has its emphasis on Indian Head Cents. Additionally shown is the 'John Reich Journal' whose emphasis is on the coins designed and created by John Reich issued from 1807-1836, and finally shown is the 'Gobrecht Journal' published by the Liberty Seated Collectors Club. This publication covers all Seated coinage from 1837-1891. So, if your specialty is one of the afore mentioned areas you may want to inquire or possibly join one of these clubs.

This list is by no means a complete list. There are clubs who publish fine journals for many other specialties such as;

- Barber Coinage
- Commemorative Coinage
- Pioneer Coinage
- Large Coppers
- Colonials

Just to name a few. I would highly recommend to anyone, search out a club or organization which concentrates on your collecting specialty. If you are unable to find such a club just ask me or a club member and I'm sure we can find a club which embraces your passion. Get, involved, meet new people and have fun, this is, as you know, the greatest hobby in the world.

# Coin Quiz & Trivia



Above is a picture of a mint building that never was. Where is it located?

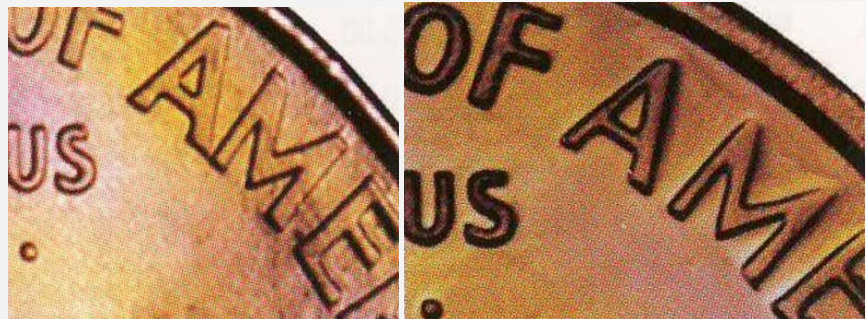
- What coin hold the record for the highest priced coin ever sold?
  - 1933 \$20
  - 1804 Silver Dollar
  - 1913 Lib. Head Nickel
  - 1794 Silver Dollar
- Which coin listed below is not an overdate?
  - 1893/2 Barber Dime
  - 1869/8 Indian Cent
  - 1943/2 Walking Liberty Half Dollar
  - 1877/6 Seated Half Dollar
- Which coin below is the rarest.
  - 1953-S FBL Franklin Half
  - 1945 FBL Mercury Dime
  - 1966 FS Proof Nickel
  - 2000 Sacagawea Dollar in 24K Gold
- Which coin(s) below have recorded mintages but their existence is not confirmed?
  - 1873-S NA Half Dollar
  - 1964-D Silver Dollar
  - 1873-S Seated Dollar
  - 1895 Business Strike Dollar
- Which cities listed below had proposals to have a mint constructed in them?
  - Chicago IL
  - Washington D.C.
  - The Dalles OR
  - Los Angeles CA

Answers to last month's questions. 1991 2) 1992 3) 36 4) 1954 5) 1902

## Young Numismatist's Corner

# Checking for Varieties

Many novices, youth, and even experienced coin collectors search for varieties. Many double dies, cuds, and various die oddities are discovered this way. Most never become mainstream or become listed in the Red Book but a few do. Look at the 'close' and 'wide' AM varieties shown at right. These have found their way into the Red Book and the 1999 has been given a value of \$500. As everyone has hundreds or thousands of pennies pass through their hands each year the possibility exists that you may have spent one of these. Why, because even though some continue to look for these varieties most do not and with billions of pennies minted there are most definitely some out there as of yet undiscovered. Why not take a look at your change or your parents change. Who knows what you may find. It may not be a AM variety but you may find something completely new to numismatics.



Pictured above are images of the 'Close AM' and 'Wide AM' Lincoln Cents. The image at left is the 'close' version while the right hand image is the 'wide' version. The 'Red Book' lists these varieties for multiple dates. (1992, 1996, 1998, 1999, and 2000) Values for only the 'Wide AM' are given for 1999 and 2000. The 1999 carries a value of \$500 in MS-65. It is currently accepted that the 'Wide AM' varieties were a result of using left over Proof Dies to strike circulation strikes.



**1877 INDIAN HEAD CENT**

Altered Date

**Pick Up Point****N's in One Cent****Frequency Encountered**  
Occasionally**Identification Difficulty**  
Easy**Value**  
Moderate to high

The general diagnostic for non-proof 1877 Indians is the weakness in the center of the reverse, most notable on the N in One. This can also manifest on the N in CENT. Additionally the shape of the 7's in the date should be identical. Some examples may have weak denticles on the obverse from 10:00 to 1:00. Proof pieces will have strong N's and very rarely a circulation strike may have stronger N's.

## Feature Article – 1917 Proof Coins

by Doug Nyholm

I have always been fascinated by coins and stories of coins which have mystery surrounding them. To say the least, proof coins or supposedly proof coins of 1917 are near the top of the list. The 'Red Book' lists, but assigns no value to proof cents and nickels of 1917 and also mentions specimen strikings of 1917 quarters. No grading service has ever certified a proof coin from this date, thus the debate goes on. I have also searched extensively for any high resolution color picture of a coin dated 1917 with claims to being a proof, to no avail. There are even reports of a single 5-coin 1917 proof set which was created but again, rumor after rumor exists. Walter Breen even commented on this proof set and mentioned Ira Reed, a well-connected Philadelphia coin dealer as being the owner. It was reportedly sold to a private collector in 1942 by Ira Reed, resurfaced in 1976 when it was purchased by dealer Joel Rettew from the collection of Reed Hawn. Walter was actually reported to have seen the proof cent and nickel but not the other denominations. It should be duly noted that some of Walter's observations have in later years been questioned or downright dismissed, so again the debate continues.

So here is what I have found.

**Proof Cents of 1917** – None authenticated or reported other than the possibility of the existence of the above mentioned proof set. Listed in the Red Book with no value given

**Proof Nickels of 1917** – None authenticated. Walter Breen reported to have seen as many as 6 or 7 examples which he documented to be authentic. Also listed in the Red Book but without valuation.

**Proof Dimes of 1917** – None authenticated or reported seen. (again with the exception of the reported proof set.) There does exist in the Smithsonian a single proof 1916 Mercury Dime which by itself is quite remarkable.

**Proof or Specimen Quarters of 1917** – Again, the Red Book mentions the possibility of Specimen examples existing but none are currently traced or known. The year 1917 in regard to quarters was an exceptional year. The design was changed early in the year from the 1916 design and there were reported several different creations of alternate designs. Most of these are known only in non-metallic model stages but there is the possibility that some of these designs were actually struck in proof format as patterns or trials. None however match the design adopted, therefore, other than the suspicious proof set no proofs are known to exist.

**Proof Half Dollars of 1917** – I have read or seen virtually nothing regarding the existence of a proof 1917 half dollar. The only comment regarding this would be again the suspicious proof set of 1917 which is currently not traced, its whereabouts known, and even its existence and authenticity in question.

So the bottom line in regard to proof coinage of 1917 is certainly in doubt. Does any example exist or is there a proof set? Only time will tell if a remarkable coin from 1917 which is a proof will emerge from hiding, or will they remain a mystery forever.

If anyone has additional information, or possibly a picture of a coin claiming to be a proof, I would very much like to talk to you about it.

Personally, I believe that there does exist a proof coin or coins from 1917. But for now, there is no example which will confirm my belief. What do you think?

Doug Nyholm



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### Identify This Coin



Can you identify the above coin?  
You should be able to tell both the date, denomination, and mint. This one is a bit tough. It's in the Red Book.  
(Hint=VAM3)

Good Luck!

[Last month's coin was a 1893-S Morgan Dollar. Note the diagnostic line in the upper portion of the 'T' in Liberty]




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### Special Ad

Chris Larson has the following for sale:

1. Almost complete UNS medal set 1970-2007  
Missing only 3 medals.
2. Scarce 1<sup>st</sup> edition 'Tokens of Utah' by Harry Campbell  
Asking \$100.00 !

**Contact Chris at 801-943-3101**

This is a paid advertisement. If anyone in the UNS has material for sale why not place an ad in the MintMaster?  
Contact your editor, Doug Nyholm for details.



### UNS Officers & Board Members

#### 2011 Officers & Board

Tom Davis – President  
Bruce Griggs – Vice Pres  
Robie Cagle – Sec.  
Eldon Farnsworth – Treas.  
Don Swain – Medals  
David Larsen – Curator  
Mary Farnsworth – Lib.  
Doug Nyholm – Newslet.  
Bob Campbell – Bourse

#### 2011 BOARD

Bob Whitehead  
Ron Swain  
Chris Larsen  
Tom Jensen  
Tom Sharpton  
Lamar Burton  
Larry Kimura  
Phil Clark

#### 2010 Outgoing Officers

Tom Jensen – President  
Doug Nyholm – VP  
Sharee Norman – Sec.  
Ralph Mueller – Treas.  
Don Swain – Medals  
Bruce Griggs – Curator  
Dennis Ruffell – Lib.  
Bob Campbell – Bourse  
Doug Nyholm- Newslet.

#### 2010 Board

Chris Larsen  
Robert Whitehead  
Eldon Farnsworth  
Ron Swain  
Michael Norman  
David Larsen  
Robie Cagle



## Utah Numismatic Society

P.O. Box 65064  
Salt Lake City, UT  
84165

### E-mail

[douglas.nyholm@comcast.net](mailto:douglas.nyholm@comcast.net)

*Your input,  
suggestions and  
written articles are  
always appreciated*



Comments, Suggestions,  
and articles should be  
submitted to:

[douglas.nyholm@comcast.net](mailto:douglas.nyholm@comcast.net)

# Membership Form

Application for membership in the Utah Numismatic Society / UNS

Name(s) of applicant(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like to receive the newsletter? ☐ Email / Preferred ☐ Postal Mail

Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

When & Where we meet –  
Columbus Community Center Second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM  
2531 South 400 East  
Salt Lake City, UT 84115

Annual Dues:

☐ Family \$25 ☐ Adult (18 and older) \$15 ☐ Junior \$5

Individual Lifetime Memberships are \$250.00. There is no family Lifetime Membership

## ADVERTISERS

**AD FEES ARE DUE IN  
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APPRECIATE YOUR  
PATRONAGE.**

**YOU MAY CONTACT  
OUR TREASURER  
FOR PAYMENT.  
THANK YOU!**

**Plan ahead for January!**

## CHRISTMAS DINNER DETAILS



Our annual Christmas dinner will be held at the  
Columbus Community Center. (Same place as our meetings.)  
**THERE WILL BE LOADS OF PRIZES!!!!**

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**TUESDAY – DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2010**  
**SOCIAL BEGINS AT 6:30 PM**  
**DINNER SERVED AT 7:00 PM**



**\$17 Adult (In advance, or at the door)**  
**\$8.50 for youth 8 or under**



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If you haven't confirmed you are coming to the Christmas dinner please let Ralph Muller know ASAP.  
( B Y DEC. 7<sup>TH</sup>)

**Ralph Muller**  
**801-581-0991**

[mullerralph@gmail.com](mailto:mullerralph@gmail.com)

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